Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The state of South Dakota is the home of Vern and Tom McDonnell, and we are richer because Vern and Tom lives among us; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love, as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Vern and Tom were born to Frank and Ida McDonnell, on the McDonnell homestead, north of Quinn on May 15, 1911; and,

Whereas, Vern was drafted into the United States Army, and served in the 95th Division of 320th Engineers from 1942 to 1945, returning to the homestead. Vern married Beulah Harrison, and to this union one son, Steven, was born, who further blessed their lives with five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Tom married Rose Melvin. They continued to live on the homestead farming the land, and in 1938 Tom bought a CAT, building dams and doing gravel and dirt work, retiring in 1955. He bought another CAT in 1988 and continued to build dams until 2010, when he built one for his great-nephew; and,

Whereas, Vern and Tom reside in Philip, South Dakota, and will observe their 100th Birthdays with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as their friends and relatives gather at the McDonnell farm to honor them and celebrate their lives and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the governor to make note of this milestone in the lives of two men who has lived exemplary lives for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2011, as

VERN & TOM MCDONNELL DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all their friends and relatives in wishing them a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State